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REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 28 Jan '54

SUBJECT East Berlin Riots, June 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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At 1000 hours on 17 June 1953, the 6th Gds. Mecz. Div., then in the training area near Templin N 53-07, E 13-30, was alerted to be prepared for movement. The 68th Gds. Med. Tk. Regt. was ready to move by 1130-1200 hours, but it was declared as "held in reserve". While the 82nd Gds. Hv. Tk. Regt., the 16th, 17th and 35th Gds. Mecz. Regt.'s. and other unidentified units of the 6th Gds. Mecz. Div. started to move out as of 1200 hours, 17 June 1953, the 68th Regt. proceeded at 2100 hours that night to its regular winter quarters in Bad Freienwalde N 52-46, E 14-03. It arrived at 0500-0600 hours on 18 June 1953. It remained in garrison until 15 July 1953, when it moved to East Berlin, arriving in the city at about 0500 hours the next day.

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Platoon leaders told EM that the 68th Gds. Med. Tk. Regt. was selected to protect the GDR and its ministry buildings in the event of new riots, and that an alert plan was set up which contained exact instructions on the movement of each tank platoon to a specific building or area during any new riot.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

ARMY review completed.

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During their lectures, political officers told Soviet troops that US agitators tried to start a riot. They said it was unsuccessful because the German people refused to participate in it and were therefore innocent of any blame.

an U/I Soviet
Tank Company refused to open fire on a crowd of poorly dressed, unarmed workers who participated in the rioting.
this company was subsequently moved out of Berlin and several of its EM were arrested.

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